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# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE



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OCTOBER, 1920

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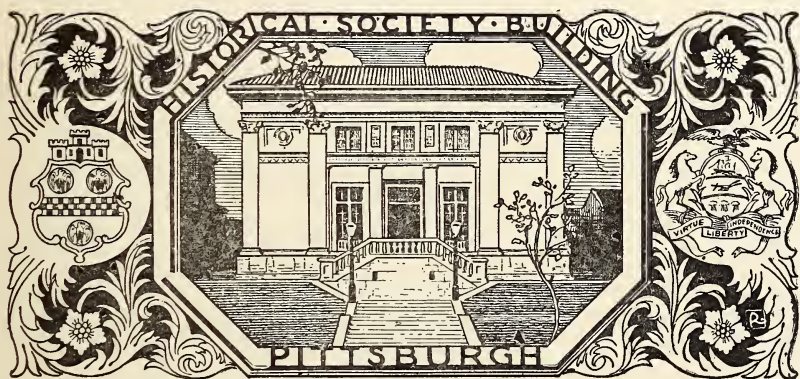
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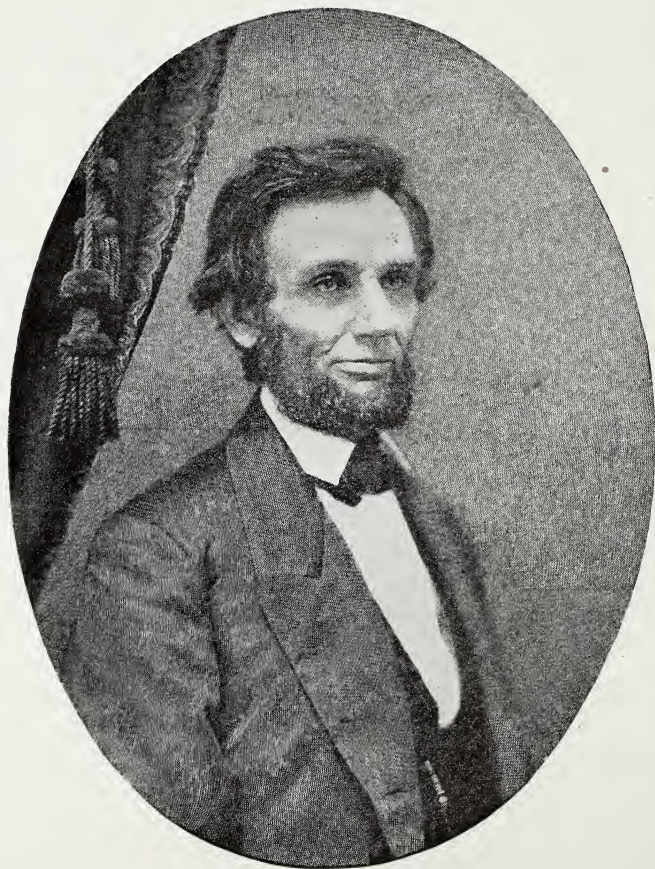
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

At the time of his appearance in Pittsburgh



# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

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Vol. 3, No. 4

OCTOBER, 1920

Price 75 Cents

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## ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN PITTSBURGH AND THE BIRTH OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

By CHARLES W. DAHLINGER.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### LINCOLN AND THE CAUSES LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

---

As Washington was the great overshadowing character in the early history of the United States, so Lincoln was the most prominent figure in its more recent years.

President Wilson is a word-painter of preeminent ability. His tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, on the occasion of the presentation to the nation of the log-cabin birthplace of the first martyr-president, on September 4, 1916, is his masterpiece. He represents Lincoln as the ideal democrat of American civilization. He crystallizes in the most expressive phrases, the opinion of Lincoln entertained by the world. He calls him a genius and tells us that genius is no snob, and that genius "does not run after titles or seek by preference the high circles of so-

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*THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE* is published quarterly, in January, April, July and October, by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Bigelow Boulevard and Parkman Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. It is mailed free to all members of the Society. Members may obtain additional copies at 50 cents each; to others the charge is 75 cents. To public libraries, universities, colleges, historical and other similar societies the annual subscription rate is \$2.00. The annual dues of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania are \$3.00, and should be sent to John E. Potter, Treasurer, Fourth Avenue and Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

ciety;" that genius "affects humble company as well as great." Lincoln in President Wilson's opinion, was "one of the great sons of men;" he tells us that "he had a great heart that seemed to comprehend all mankind in its catholic and benignant sympathy;" that his "vision swept many horizons which those about him dreamed not of"—that his mind "comprehended what it had never seen, and understood the language of affairs with the ready ease of one to the manner born;" that he had a "nature which seemed in its varied richness to be the familiar of men of every way of life" (1).

It is this exalted opinion of Lincoln that has influenced men to worship at his shrine, to keep innumerable writers and speakers employed in glorifying his greatness. It has caused the states through which his ancestors passed, or in which they tarried in their various migrations, to point to those facts. The sentiment has even produced a controversy as to the nationality of Abraham Lincoln's ancestral stock. Because his grandfather, who was also named Abraham, was born in the Pennsylvania-German county of Berks, and a land warrant was issued to him by the state of Virginia in the German-sounding name of Linkhorn, the survey to which he signed in the same way, a writer has claimed that the family is of German origin (2). This deduction induced certain persons interested in the history of the Lincoln family to investigate the question, the result being a volume in which the claim that Abraham Lincoln was of German origin is strongly refuted (3). This reverence for Lincoln has caused every city, town, village and rural community in which he once lived or visited, to point to the fact, and to enshrine the places where he sojourned. It is for this reason that Pittsburgh loves to recall, that Lincoln once honored the city by being its guest—twice it was believed for many years. The first visit said to have been made by Lincoln was in 1856. It is said that he was in Pittsburgh in attendance at the Republican convention held here in 1856, on Washington's birthday, February 22nd, and the day following. The belief was founded on a statement printed in the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette* of February 22, 1856, announcing as one of the early arrivals, "Hon. A. Lincoln" and setting forth that he had

PITTSBURGH  
CITY HALL,  
WHERE THE  
REPUBLICAN  
PARTY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA WAS OR-  
GANIZED.



It stood on the  
eastern half of  
the Diamond, and  
was torn down in  
the summer of  
1914, to make  
way for the mar-  
ket house now oc-  
cupying the site.



MONONGAHELA HOUSE





attended the preliminary meeting held in the Monongahela House on the evening of February 21st. This account was followed in Erasmus Wilson's admirable "Standard History of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," published in 1898.

Both accounts are clearly in error. It is true that Lincoln was expected to attend the convention (4), but affairs in his home state evidently kept him away. On February 22, 1856, Lincoln was in Decatur, Illinois, where certain newspaper editors were meeting to consolidate the Anti-Nebraska forces (5), and on whose recommendation a state convention was held at Bloomington on May 29th, following, which organized the Republican party in Illinois. There can be hardly any doubt that Lincoln had been communicated with and was invited to attend the Pittsburgh convention. The statement in the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette* that he was in attendance would hardly have been printed had this not been the case. Then the Decatur conference was broached to him and he decided to remain in his own state, and watch events there. It is extremely probable also that the Decatur conference was suggested by the appearance of the call for the Pittsburgh convention. This contention is the more plausible when it is borne in mind that the *Chicago Tribune*, which was represented in the Decatur conference, had its editor, J. C. Vaughan, in attendance at the Pittsburgh convention. It may even be a fact that the originator of the Pittsburgh convention was in communication with the Illinois editors, and advised them to hold their conference for the purpose of organizing the Republican party in that state.

It was the opposition to the extension of negro slavery that brought about the Pittsburgh convention. Negro slavery had been introduced into the Colonies as early as the year 1619, two years after Jamestown was settled, when twenty negroes were brought there on a Dutch vessel (6). From that time forward, fostered by the English government, negro slaves were brought into all of the Colonies, mainly on English ships, although there were also New Englanders who exchanged their rum for negroes on the coast of Africa (7).

At the outbreak of the American Revolution the number of negro slaves in the Colonies was about half a million (8). The leaders in the new government, Washington,

Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Jay, Hamilton, Patrick Henry, although some of them were slaveholders, all regarded slavery as a great evil. Their struggle with England was for "Freedom" and their idealistic theories could not be reconciled with the existence of slavery under the government which they had just established. The altruistic impulse, however, was not strong enough to overcome the spirit of self interest prevalent in a large part of the country (9). An eminent foreign historian (10), without bias in favor of either the slaveholders or the non-slaveholders of the United States, has summed up the sentiments of the former toward slavery in the following language:

"The negro had been long looked upon, uprightly and honestly, as an animal. There was no consciousness whatever that any injustice had been done him. When conscience began slowly to assert itself, it was quieted by the argument that bringing heathen doomed to hell to America made the blessings of Christianity attainable to them. A sluggish faith could content itself with this lie since it harmonized with worldly interests."

In the Northern states the conservative people awakened early to the great wrong of negro slavery. By the year 1800 all of them had passed laws abolishing slavery, in some states immediately, in others after a period of years. Henry Watterson commented sarcastically on the movement: "The North, which brought the Africans here in its ships, finding slave labor unprofitable, sold its slaves to the South at a good price and turned pious" (11). By act of Congress of March 2, 1807, the importation of slaves into the country was prohibited from January 1, 1808 (12). But slaves continued to be smuggled into the United States, it being estimated that in some years the number was from thirteen to fifteen thousand (13). The illicit trade continued until the slave trade was on May 15, 1820, declared by Congress to be piracy (14).

In the North slavery had become a moral question, in the South an economic and political one. The North was opposed to the further extension of slavery, particularly into the new territories and states as they were created, the South favored their admission as slave territories or states. In 1820 a line of demarcation was created between slave and free territory by the passage by Congress of the

Missouri Compromise bill, approved on March 6th. The slave power was not satisfied; the country was ever expanding into the fertile West and the slave-owners desired a share of the new lands; but they must take their slaves with them. With the assistance of Northern politicians they procured the passage by Congress of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, approved May 30, 1854 (15), which provided for the organization of the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and left to the decision of the residents of the states and territories, the question of permitting slavery within their respective borders (16). The law repealed the Missouri Compromise and was responsible for the organization of the Republican party.

In the non-slaveholding states the agitation against the extension of slavery now increased ten fold. The revolt spread into every state, county, city and hamlet in the North. Here and there the forces of opposition, including those who believed in the abolition of slavery, coalesced, calling themselves the Anti-Nebraska party, and went actively campaigning against both the Whig and Democratic parties. And at one of the local meetings of these persons it was decided to substitute the word "Republican" for "Anti-Nebraska" as a party designation, and the decision was received with enthusiasm wherever the new revolution had taken root. The name Republican was a name dear to all Americans from the time when the monarchical yoke of England was shaken off. It was a name to conjure with. It was equally as attractive as the word Democrat, the name under which the old Republican party of Jefferson had been winning campaigns for lo these many years. It was even more alluring to the swarms of foreign refugees from Germany, Hungary, Italy, France, who had come to the United States after seeing their hopes of establishing republics in their old homes blasted, by the failure of the revolutionary movements in which they had taken part. And when Horace Greeley, the high priest of the Anti-Nebraska movement, approved of the name Republican in his paper, the *New York Tribune*, in its issue of June 24, 1854, the isolated particles became ready for consolidation into a national party.

There were detached movements in that direction, beginning a few weeks after the passage of the obnoxious Kansas-Nebraska law, with the convention at Jackson, Mich-

igan, held on July 6, 1854, at which a full state ticket was nominated. There were soon Republican organizations of some sort in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Hampshire, Wisconsin. New political alignments were made. In the South the Whig party disintegrated, the members almost *en masse* attaching themselves to the Democratic party. In the North it was also soon disrupted, most of the members joining either the American or Know Nothing party, or the Free Soil party, and finally entering the Republican camp. Many Northern Democrats also joined the Republican party.

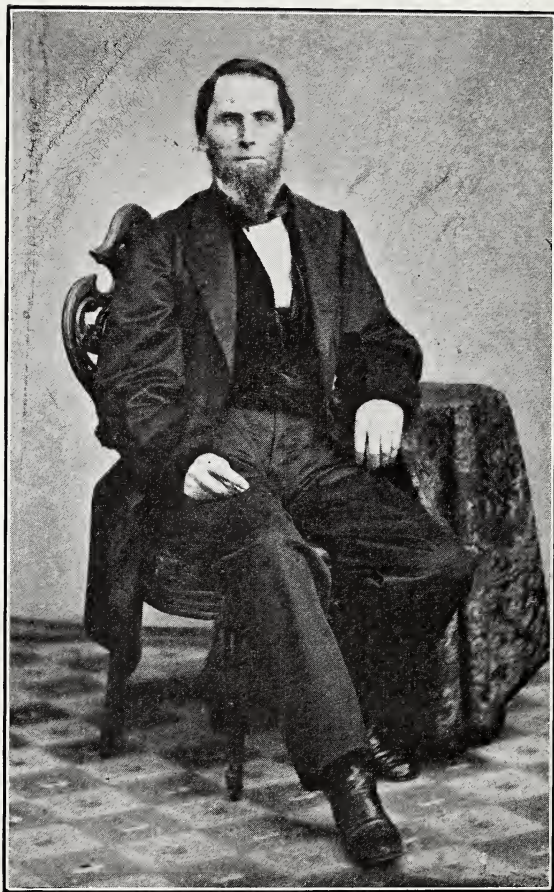
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DAVID N. WHITE

Father of the Republican Party of the United States.

## CHAPTER II.

**THE PITTSBURGH CONVENTION OF 1856. AND ITS  
INFLUENCE ON LINCOLN'S CAREER.**

---

The Republican party of the United States was born in Pittsburgh, and the father was David N. White, the proprietor and editor of the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette* (1). In a letter written on December 26, 1878, to the editors of the *Commercial Gazette* of Pittsburgh he tells the story of its origin (2).

"The Whig party in Pennsylvania was dead,"—he wrote, and "the Democratic party was tied hand and foot to the triumphant car of the slave masters; \* \* there was not at that time any Republican organization in any county in Pennsylvania." In the summer of 1855 he resolved to organize the Republican party in Allegheny County and also in the state if possible. He drew up two calls, one for a county delegate convention and the other for a mass state convention. He interviewed the political leaders in the state personally on the subject, or wrote to them. These calls were published on August 8, 1855, and at various later dates in the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette*, and although the calls requested other papers friendly to the conventions to copy the calls, the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette* was the only newspaper to publish them (3). The call for the state convention was signed with fourteen names, by residents of thirteen counties, there being two signatures from Philadelphia; and Thaddeus Stevens of Lancaster County was the most distinguished name attached to the call. The convention met in Pittsburgh in City Hall, on September 5, 1855, and was largely attended; and Passmore Williamson of Philadelphia was nominated for Canal Commissioner. He was the secretary of an abolition society in Philadelphia and was then in prison for contempt of court in refusing to deliver upon order of court, runaway slaves. The suggestion of his name, according to Col. A. K. McClure, carried the convention off its feet "in a tempest of enthusiasm" (4). Delegates were elected to the Allegheny County convention from nearly every election district, a county ticket was nominated, and a county committee appointed. The Democrats carried both

the state and county in October, but a beginning had been made and an organization created.

The Republican party as a national organization, had its inception shortly after the October election. At the election in Ohio in October, 1855, Salmon P. Chase, who was afterward President Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, was elected governor by the Anti-Nebraska party, and was specially attracted by the Republican movements in Pennsylvania. In November he came to Pittsburgh to confer with Mr. White in regard to organizing a national Republican party, the interview taking place in a room in the Monongahela House (5). In his letter to the *Commercial Gazette*, Mr. White relates what took place at the conference.

"He expressed himself surprised and delighted with the movement, which had originated in Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania, to unite together the scattered forces of the opponents to the dangerous encroachments of the slave power, and as a presidential election was to take place the next year, he wished to confer on the possibility of originating a national party on the same basis as our county and state Republican party, and as a sort of outgrowth of that movement. He was pleased that the initiative had been taken in Pennsylvania, a middle state, and a state not given to extreme views, and not easily aroused to resist aggression. He spoke of the propriety of preparing a call for a national mass convention to meet probably in Pittsburgh, and spoke of a gentleman of his own state who would take the trouble to procure signers, so as to give it a national significance. The result of the interview was the resolve to hold such a national convention."

On January 17, 1856, a call was issued for the convention, which was to be held in Pittsburgh on Washington's birthday, February 22nd (6), a day dear to all loyal Americans. The following is the call:

"To the Republicans of the United States:

"In accordance with what appears to be the general desire of the Republican party, and at the suggestion of a large portion of the Republican press, the undersigned, chairmen of the State Republican Committees of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin, hereby invite the Republicans of the Union to meet in informal convention, at Pittsburgh



on the 22d of February, 1856, for the purpose of perfecting the national organization, and providing for a national delegate convention of the Republican party, at some subsequent day to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, to be supported at the election in November, 1856.

A. P. STONE, of Ohio,

LAWRENCE BRAINERD, of Vt.

J. Z. GOODRICH, of Mass.

WILLIAM A. WHITE, of Wis.

DAVID WILMOT, of Penn.

RUFUS HOSMER, of Mich."

The signatures of the chairmen of the Republican State Committees of Maine, New York and Indiana were not attached to the call, but representatives from all of those states were present at the convention. That the convention was held in Lafayette Hall on the day designated is well known (7).

On the day that the convention convened, the interior of the hall presented a gala appearance. The walls and ceiling were hung with flags, and on the stage were portraits of such political war horses, as David Wilmot, Joshua R. Giddings, the latter being present in person, and of the great commoner, Henry Clay. It was not what is known as a delegate convention, but was, as it was designated in the call, an informal mass convention, and everyone who was interested and desired to attend was welcome, and was called a delegate. The winter had been severe, snow had begun to fall on the preceding Christmas and the landscape was still covered with snow and ice (8). The few railroads in operation were new and travelers encountered many difficulties in going from place to place. Yet the convention was largely attended, there being about five hundred delegates present (9). Twenty-four states and two territories were represented, being all of the free states, and eight of the slaveholding states, namely, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina and Texas.

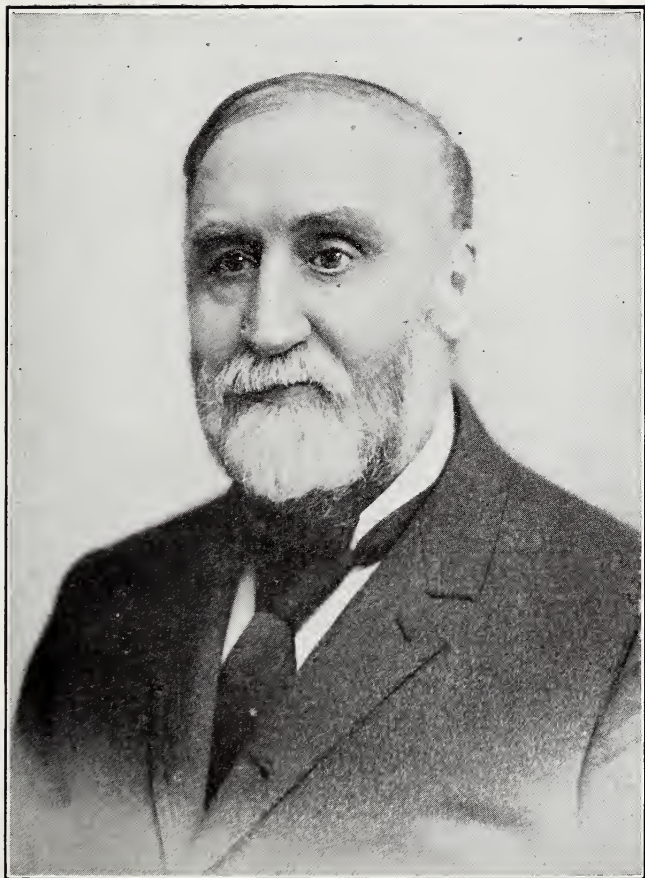
The convention was opened with a prayer by the Rev. Owen Lovejoy, a brother of Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, who had been murdered by a pro-slavery mob in his home at Alton, Illinois, for his abolition views, and was called a martyr to the cause. Mr. Lovejoy's prayer was the most radical utterance in the convention. He asked God to remove the Buchanan administration from power, and thwart its unholy

designs upon the liberties of a free people. And unlike other prayers this one was received with rapturous applause (10).

The convention was shrewdly managed, and Francis P. Blair, formerly the editor of the *Washington Globe*, because he was a Southerner, and yet sincerely opposed to the extension of slavery, and had been a Democrat and friend of Andrew Jackson, was elected chairman, amid great enthusiasm. David N. White, the originator of the convention, had no official connection with it. As in his organization of the Republican party in Allegheny County and in the state of Pennsylvania, he remained in the background, except that he was a member of the Reception Committee. His associate editor on the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette*, Russell Errett, was, however, one of the secretaries.

All classes, conditions and nationalities were represented. Congregated there were journalists, clergymen, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, physicians, engineers, actors, workmen. There were Democrats, Whigs, Americans, Free-soilers, Abolitionists. Some were politicians, but by far the larger number attended purely on account of the wrong of slavery. Russell Errett said it was a body noted for its exceptionally tall men (11). "The doorways of Lafayette Hall," he relates, "were made for smaller men, and I remember how two gentlemen, in passing through the committee room, bumped their heads severely against the top of the doorway, although bareheaded. They were all tall, splendidly formed men, and as big mentally as they looked to be physically."

Of the delegates of foreign birth the Germans were the most numerous, the Irish coming next. Carl G. Rümelin, the editor of the *Cincinnati Volksblatt*, represented the swarms of Germans, who having come to the United States after the collapse of the Revolutions of 1848 and 1849 in Germany, had just become citizens. He pledged his loyalty to the new party, but expressed disappointment at the convention not taking a stand against the discrimination entertained by many against persons of foreign birth. Horace Greeley, in the report to his paper, the *New York Tribune* commented on the speech, saying it was "among the most effective; that it was pointed and eloquent and was received with much applause." Russell Errett also



**RUSSELL ERRETT**

One of the Secretaries of the Pittsburgh Republican National  
Convention of 1856





commended the speech in strong terms (12). So impressed was he that he wrote in 1888: "After a lapse of thirty-two years his speech comes back to me almost as fresh as in its first delivery." Malone Raymond of Pennsylvania, the Irish comedian, represented the Irish citizens. Horace Greeley, in a white coat, his broad forehead seeming balder than ever, was a striking figure. Henry J. Raymond, the founder and editor of the *New York Times*, who was then Lieutenant Governor of New York, having been elected on the Anti-Nebraska ticket in 1854, was there, but did not take an open part in the proceedings. His work, however, was the most important accomplishment of the convention. Although not a member of the Committee on Address, he was the author of the luminous, Address to the people of the United States, which the convention afterward sent out (13). Zachariah Chandler of Michigan entertained the convention with anecdotes containing both wit and wisdom. Oliver P. Morton, who was a representative from Indiana, is remembered in Pittsburgh as he appeared in his old age—a helpless paralytic, seated on a chair and still making speeches in advocacy of the party which he helped to create. In the language of one of the speakers, the men in the convention were the "ice-breakers" in the cause of Republicanism.

The convention lasted two days. A National Executive Committee was appointed, and it was decided to hold a Republican National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, to be held in Philadelphia on June 17, 1856. Again the sentimental side of the originators of the convention appeared, June 17th, being the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill. After adopting the, Address to the people of the United States, which presented a strong picture of the condition of the country, brought about by the hunger of the slave-owners for additional territory into which to expand, the convention adjourned, with nine rousing cheers.

The convention had attracted much attention in Pittsburgh. The newspapers, even the Democratic *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, devoted columns to accounts of its proceedings. There is a piquency about the accounts printed in this paper, which at the time no doubt caused resentment among the Republicans, but which today appear amusing. The ac-

count of the proceedings of the first day is headed:

"Black Republican Convention."

"Giddings, Greeley and the Smaller Lights on Hand."

"Passmore Williamson Exhibited."

In another part of the paper it is related that "Passmore Williamson was in the convention in the afternoon with his whiskers on." Speaking of the attendance the *Pittsburgh Daily Post* said: "Lafayette Hall will hold eight or nine hundred people. A thousand *may* crowd in, and perhaps that number were there in the evening. But there was at no time a demand made for a larger hall, although one three times as large could have been had within two squares." The *Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch* on the other hand said, that during the afternoon there were not less than a thousand present; and Horace Greeley in a telegram to his *Tribune* said "hundreds went away because it was not possible to gain admittance."

The local German newspaper, *Der Freiheits Freund*, declared for the new party because the paper was strongly opposed to the extension of slavery and slave chasing. It demanded, however, that a plank be inserted in its platform opposing discrimination against citizens of foreign birth. After the convention was over it expressed its dissatisfaction at the failure of that body to make some expression on that subject, which it designated "Know Nothingism." It advised its readers to support the Republican party, but at the same time told them to take part in the selection of delegates to the Philadelphia convention, and to only advocate the election of such men as were friendly to their interests. "If that convention does not do right," it went on, "then the Democratic party remains. The Germans will go with the party which helps them."

Many of the writers of United States history fail to mention the fact that the Republican party was born in Pittsburgh. Others do not attach the importance to the event that it merits. Even some of the historians of the Republican party do not refer to this fact, while others dismiss it with a bare mention. In no history, except a local one of limited circulation, is it set forth that David N. White was the father of the Republican party. Nowhere is Henry J. Raymond (called by his biographer the god-father of the Republican party), given the proper credit for

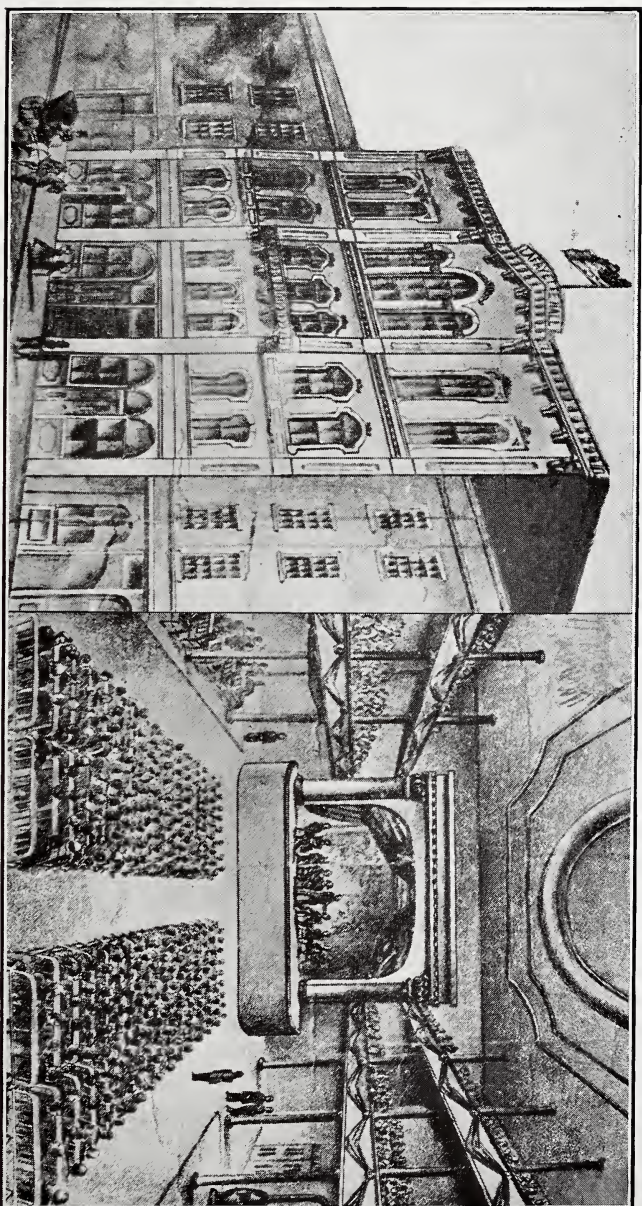
his work in preparing the, Address to the people of the United States (14). The influence which the convention exerted on the history of the United States should receive more attention from historians. Out of political chaos a great party was born which has many important achievements to its credit. The convention should also be commemorated for another reason. It caused a great awakening in Abraham Lincoln. It was after becoming familiar with what had been accomplished in Pittsburgh that Lincoln decided to renounce the obsolete party to which he had belonged since early manhood, and attach himself to the new party of idealism and progress, which had just been formed, an incident which started him on the career that finally led him to become the greatest statesman of his time. This should give Washington's birthday an added significance.

From a careful study of Lincoln's life for the first few months of 1856, it can be fairly deduced that it was the Pittsburgh convention that finally convinced him that it was the Republican party that would carry the country safely through the storm that was impending. Since the expiration of his term in Congress, which ended on March 4, 1849, Lincoln had devoted himself to the practice of the law and to a course of general education, even joining a class for the study of German. He took little part in politics, except that in 1852 he appeared on the Whig ticket as a candidate for presidential elector. He had been a life-long Whig, but always realized the sin of slavery and was opposed to its extension, but hesitated to leave the Whig party. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill caused a widespread feeling of indignation, and sounded the death-knell of that party. A live issue was now presented, and Lincoln emerged from his political retirement. The lure of politics was still strong within him, his old ambition for political preferment was reawakened, and he appeared on the stump denouncing the iniquity of the new legislation. In October, 1854, during the week of the State Fair at Springfield, Stephen A. Douglas, before an unprecedented concourse of people, made a speech defending his course in having the Kansas-Nebraska bill passed. The following day Lincoln answered him in a speech so profound, logical and convincing that those who heard it said it was unanswerable; and he fol-

lowed Douglas in his speaking tour through Illinois. Now he belonged to the Anti-Nebraska party. He was very conservative, and while the old parties were disintegrating he was not yet a Republican. By the time that the call for the Pittsburgh convention was sent out, he was nearly ready to take the decisive step and join the new party. But he was cautious, and regardful of his own interests, and at the Decatur conference he remained in the background, marking time, sizing up the situation, considering; and at the banquet in the evening after the conference was over, he failed to unbosom himself of his views on the formation of the new party. The details of the proceedings of the Pittsburgh convention became known. The whole country learned that men from far and near had been in attendance; that they were there in numbers; that they were men of high character; that the interests represented were diverse; that the enthusiasm displayed was intense. It was discovered that the speeches, and above all the, Address to the people of the United States, were conservative and full of wisdom.

It was now that Lincoln made up his mind. He realized that the new party was built on a broad foundation, that it was not one of those ephemeral excrescences which had arisen in the last dozen years, and had then died as suddenly as they were born. The new party was one that he could conscientiously enter; and it was a party that could win! For several months longer he remained brooding; then in the spring a call appeared for a Republican county convention to elect delegates to the state convention to be held at Bloomington on May 29th, and the paper contained Lincoln's signature. He had placed the seal of his approval on the proceedings of the Pittsburgh convention. The seed sown in Pittsburgh had begun to sprout and at the state convention in Illinois it bloomed, and Lincoln came out squarely for the Republican party and made a great speech. Hernden, his law partner, says that when making this speech he appeared to be inspired. For bringing Abraham Lincoln into the folds of the new party, if for no other reason, the Pittsburgh convention should be regarded as one of the great events of history.





REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION AT LAFAYETTE HALL  
FEBRUARY 22nd and 23rd, 1856

From an old lithograph



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## CHAPTER III.

**LINCOLN VISITS PITTSBURGH ON HIS WAY TO BE  
INAUGURATED PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES**

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On February 14, 1861, Abraham Lincoln visited Pittsburgh (1). He had now achieved the height of human greatness. Since those memorable two days of 1856 when the Republican party was born, and which had resulted in his receiving a vision, and he had taken the step that had led to his present preferment, his life had been one of extreme activity. His Bloomington speech had caused one of his enthusiastic Illinois supporters to nominate him for the Vice-Presidency at the Philadelphia convention, and he had received one hundred and ten votes, of which eleven came from Pennsylvania delegates. He was defeated, but busied himself making speeches for Fremont and Dayton, the candidates nominated by the convention, and headed the electoral ticket in Illinois. In the spring of 1857 the Supreme Court of the United States decided in the Dred Scott Case, that a negro could not sue in the United States Court, and that Congress could not prohibit slavery in the territories. In the North the flames of resentment rose higher than ever. Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's old antagonist, attempted to calm the storm in Illinois, and Lincoln answered him. The next year the election for United States Senator to succeed Douglas was to take place, and Lincoln was nominated by the Republican State Convention as the Republican candidate. Now began the series of debates between Lincoln and Douglas which have since become historic. Up and down the state the two men traveled, talking before great audiences, charging and answering and charging again. Lincoln had the best of the arguments, but lost the Senatorship.

But he had gained far more than the Senatorship. He had become well known not only in Illinois, but in other states as well. Before the Pittsburgh convention he had been scarcely heard of outside of Illinois. Now he was favorably spoken of in many Northern states. His friends began to talk to him about the Presidency in 1860. The Illinois newspapers commenced taking up the matter. At



the state convention of 1860, a storm of applause broke forth when two rails that were said to have been cut by Lincoln were brought in, attached to which was a streamer announcing him as the "Rail Candidate for President in 1860." He was nominated at Chicago. Again Pennsylvania helped him, this time with fifty-two votes on the second ballot, and the break to Lincoln had begun. On the third ballot he only lacked two and a half votes of the nomination, and in a moment four votes were changed in the Ohio delegation and he was nominated. A campaign followed, exciting as no political campaign had ever been. Also it was picturesque, and the Wide-Awakes in their glazed caps and capes, carrying lanterns, or blazing petroleum torches, paraded the streets. Badges containing pictures of Lincoln splitting rails, or engineering a flatboat, were worn on men's coat fronts. On November 6th, he was elected President of the United States.

Now he was on a triumphal tour to the seat of the national government of which he was to be the supreme head for four years. But that government was rapidly disintegrating, one after another the slave states were seceding, seven had already gone scowling out of the Union. The spectre of war had created in the entire North fear and foreboding, but had also stirred the people to an unprecedented degree of patriotism. Everywhere they were anxious to see the man who was to lead them through the expected period of doubt, and turmoil and dissension. And to accommodate the prevailing sentiment Lincoln was traveling by a circuitous route to Washington.

He left his home in Springfield on February 11th, and stopped at many places along the way, and to the clamor for a speech he generally made a few remarks, talking familiarly to the people who crowded about him. Everywhere he was received with the wildest demonstrations of enthusiasm; it was apparent that he was the idol of the people. The common people cheered for him because they loved to think of him as one of them. They called him familiarly "Abe," at least when they were in a crowd and at a distance. The others acclaimed him for his accomplishments, and on account of that which they thought he could do in the prevailing emergency.

His train reached Steubenville shortly after two o'clock

on Thursday afternoon, February 14th. It consisted of three passenger coaches and a baggage car, and was drawn by the locomotive "Comet" which had been decorated with flags. The first car was given over to excursionists, while the other two were occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, their son, Robert T. Lincoln, and the two younger Lincoln boys, by Mr. Lincoln's suite, by representatives of the leading newspapers of the country, and by a committee of Cleveland citizens who had been appointed to escort Lincoln to Cleveland, the next stop in his itinerary. At Rochester there came on board the train, the citizens committee of Pittsburgh, the committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature and the committee of Allegheny Councils, with Mayor Simon Drum at their head. Here it was learned that at Freedom, a few miles east of Rochester, the tender of the locomotive of a freight train going west, had broken an axle, and that the track was obstructed in consequence. A delay of nearly three hours resulted. A large crowd immediately gathered and shouted for the President-elect to come out of his car. And he complied, and came out on the rear platform, and as the people pushed up he shook hands, and chatted with them good-humoredly and retired, and came out again and again. A teamster named Henry Dillon, who was known to be the tallest man in the vicinity, came up on the platform, shook hands with Lincoln and stretching himself to his full height exclaimed: "Why I am as tall as you are!"

He moved over to the side of the President-elect, and both Lincoln and he took off their hats and turned their backs to one another. Lincoln placed his hand on Dillon's head and it was apparent that he was two or three inches taller than Dillon. Lincoln laughed and turned round and said, amid the shouts and laughter of the assembled crowd (2), "Oh! I could eat salt off the top of your head."

In Pittsburgh extensive preparations had been made for Lincoln's reception. A citizens meeting had appointed a number of committees, including a large reception committee. Pittsburgh Councils had decided to proceed in a body to the railroad station on Federal Street, Allegheny, where the train was to come in, that being the eastern terminus of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, over whose tracks the President-elect's train was to

arrive. Here they went to meet Lincoln and escort him to the Monongahela House, where he was to be quartered. Allegheny Councils had concluded to do likewise, and had also appointed the committee which met Lincoln's train at Rochester. Major Symington, the commandant at the United States Arsenal, had supplied two brass canon, with which salutes were to be fired, one being stationed on Boyd's Hill and the other on Seminary, now Monument Hill, in Allegheny, and also furnished the gun squad and the ammunition.

At an early hour the streets of the two cities began to assume a lively appearance. Strangers were crowding in from all over the county and from adjoining counties. Along the line of the route that Lincoln was expected to pass over the residents began decorating their houses with flags. In the afternoon many of the workshops shut down, stores were closed and a general suspension of business ensued. The special train bringing the President-elect was due to arrive at the Federal Street station at twenty minutes after five. At four o'clock the military under command of Brigadier General James S. Negley, consisting of the Pennsylvania Dragoons, the Jackson Independent Blues and the Washington Infantry, formed on Penn Street, now Penn Avenue. Shortly before five o'clock the order to march was given, and as the carriages containing the Councils of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, and the various committees, passed down St. Clair, now Federal Street, the military fell into line and escorted them to the Allegheny station.

The station was already so crowded that it was considered futile to attempt to clear it. The carriage in which Lincoln was to ride, was an open one, drawn by six horses, and as the weather was lowering, it was placed under the shelter of the platform of the station, and a file of soldiers stationed on each side, with the military staff and the brigade and division officers in front and rear; the dragoons kept guard outside. The other carriages were also either placed on the platform or around the depot. An impatient gathering filled the platform and blocked Federal Street in front of it. Rumors of the detention of the train passed through the crowd, but were disregarded until almost six o'clock. Then the people began to besiege the

telegraph office anxious for information in regard to the whereabouts of the train.

After six o'clock rumors of the train having passed Sewickley were circulated, and tended to keep the crowd from dispersing. As night gathered a light rain began to fall, and aided in driving away the women composing a large part of the crowd. Many, however, maintained their ground until the rain began to pour down in a heavy stream. In anticipation of a formal reception, the Allegheny Councilmen had collected within the narrow enclosure separating the tracks from the platform, and here most of them waited patiently.

At eight o'clock the guns on Boyd's Hill and Seminary Hill, commenced booming. The whistle and the puffing of the locomotive, and the ringing of the bell of the approaching train were heard, and in an instant all was bustle and excitement. A call was made for the military to clear the enclosure alongside of the track, and it was not until some time after the train had stopped that a narrow lane was opened from the train to the President-elect's carriage, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the military kept the crowd from closing up the narrow passage. On leaving the train Lincoln was welcomed to the city by Mayor Drum, who introduced him to a number of the persons collected there. Among them was John Morrison, who had been Mayor Drum's immediate predecessor in the office of mayor, and who was later to again serve in that capacity. He was there with several of his children, including his daughter Mary, aged about twelve years. Lincoln was attracted to the little girl and attempted to kiss her, but she shrank back declining this mark of interest, afterward telling her family that the reason she refused to be kissed by Lincoln was "because he was so very black" (3).

With his escort drawn up on either side, Lincoln made his way toward his carriage. As soon as the crowd saw in the light of the flickering gas-lamps, the towering form of the President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln, and his son, Robert T. Lincoln, and the two younger boys some distance behind, loud cries for a speech were heard, but Lincoln walked briskly and entered the carriage, followed by Mayor Drum. The cries intermingled with cheers, continuing, he arose, bowing, and declared good-humoredly,



that owing to the lateness of the hour, caused by the unavoidable delay, and the inauspiciousness of the weather, he would be unable to respond, but hoped to meet them in the morning in Pittsburgh, when he would have a few words to say to them. Cheer after cheer rent the air as Lincoln sat down, and the procession began to move. It was led by the military, their uniforms now bedraggled with rain and the mud of the street, the Pennsylvania Dragoons on the right, the President-elect's carriage and the other carriages following. Along the route in defiance of rain, many spectators still held their positions. The pavements along St. Clair, Market, Fifth, now Fifth Avenue, and Smithfield streets, were crowded, and everywhere the utmost enthusiasm was evidenced. In many of the stores and dwellings the windows were lighted, and here and there the darkness was illuminated by brilliant colored fires.

The beating of the drums and the strains of familiar airs were at last heard by the dense crowd that had assembled on Smithfield Street, in front of the Monongahela House, where they had been patiently waiting in the rain for three hours. The enthusiasm now manifested itself in a constant succession of cheers. Thousands of voices cried for Lincoln in all the familiar phrases of the campaign. So closely packed was the gathering that it was necessary for the military to clear a passage with their bayonets before Lincoln could enter the hotel. The vestibule, parlor and office were jammed with people. Here he was introduced to the mayor, George Wilson, who extended a cordial greeting. The crowd was so dense that Lincoln and his party had to be almost carried, before they could get up stairs into the private parlor that was reserved for them. The calls for him from the hall were incessant, and after listening to the uproar for a few minutes, he came out of the room and mounted a chair which had been placed for him at the door, and made a few remarks. He again referred to the detention of the train and the disagreeable weather. He stated that he had intended to address the citizens of Pennsylvania on a topic which nearly concerned their interests. Here some one cried out asking that he say something about Allegheny County. Allegheny County had given him a majority of ten thousand votes over his next highest competitor, and his eyes brightened as he

replied: "I have a great regard for Allegheny County. It is the banner county of the state, if not of the entire Union." At this a nimble-witted punster interjected the remark, "No railery, Abe," which was followed by laughter and tremendous applause from the crowd, and by shouts of: "Good for the Railsplitter!" and "Split another Rail!"

After quiet was restored Lincoln continued: "It rolled up a tremendous majority for what I at least consider a good cause. By a mere accident and not through any merit of mine, it happened that I was the representative of that cause and I acknowledge with all sincerity the high honor you have conferred upon me." As he dismounted from the chair, three rousing cheers were given for "Honest Abe."

Out on Smithfield Street in the darkness and the rain, the crowd now became impatient. From all sides came cries of "Lincoln!" "Lincoln!" "Come out and show yourself, Abe!" "Speech!" "Speech!" "Let us hear from the Railsplitter!"

As Lincoln finally came out on the balcony he was received with a storm of applause which lasted for several minutes. Heedless of the rain, hundreds lowered their umbrellas in order to be better able to see and to hear the President-elect. After the cheering was over, Lincoln began. He declared that he only appeared for the purpose of coming to an understanding as to the best manner of closing the scene for the night. He said he would postpone his further remarks until morning, adding "when we hope for more favorable weather; and I have made my appearance now only to afford you an opportunity of seeing as clearly as may be my beautiful countenance," and amid roars of laughter and cheering he said "Good Night!" his words being echoed back by the crowd in the street in one thunderous chorus. It was only on his return from the balcony that he joined his family and together they had supper.

Friday morning was again wet and dreary. The rain had fallen heavily during the preceding night and until eight o'clock, when it subsided somewhat. Mr. Lincoln had arisen early and until the time for his address, was occupied in receiving the members of Pittsburgh Councils and other callers. Promptly at half past eight he stepped out on the balcony (4). Down below on Smithfield Street from Water Street to Second Street, now Second Avenue, not-

withstanding the rain and the half liquid mud covering the street, an immense crowd had assembled. Viewed from the balcony the space seemed to be absolutely covered with umbrellas. The applause which greeted Lincoln was many times greater than on the evening before. *The Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle* of February 15, 1861, describes Lincoln as he appeared that morning on the balcony. "He wore a black dress suit, rather fashionably made, with large turn-down collar and black tie. A judiciously cultivated beard and whiskers hides the hollowness of his jaws to some extent, and takes away the prominence of the cheek bones, given him in engravings."

He was now formally welcomed in a speech by Mayor Wilson, and at its conclusion he launched out into his promised address. He thanked Mayor Wilson for his flattering reception, but stated that he knew it was not intended so much for himself as for the cause which he represented. He alluded to the distracted condition of the country, and admitted that it filled everyone with anxiety. His statement that, "Notwithstanding the troubles across the river (pointing southwardly across the Monongahela River and smiling), there is no crisis but an artificial one," was received with long continued applause.

He touched upon the question of a tariff for the protection of home industries, and added: "I must confess that I do not understand this subject in all its multiform bearings, but I promise you I will give it my closest attention and endeavor to comprehend it more fully." He dwelt upon the provisions of the Constitution by which the Executive might recommend measures, or veto such as he thought improper. He went on smiling, "It is supposed that he may add to these certain indirect influences to affect the action of Congress." Continuing in a serious manner he said: "My political education strongly inclines me against a very free use of any of these means by the Executive to control the legislation of the country." As he bowed on concluding, a tremendous wave of applause burst forth.

Lincoln had spoken longer than he intended, and it was almost nine o'clock when he closed his speech. The special train for Cleveland was scheduled to leave the Allegheny station at ten o'clock, and it was necessary to immediately arrange to get there. The halls adjacent to the parlors lead-

ing to the balcony were so densely crowded, that Lincoln could not move from his position until the military forced a passage, by means of which he reached the carriage, where with Mayor Wilson he was soon seated. In response to the loud cries of "Stand up!" "Stand up!" he arose in the carriage and bowed his acknowledgments again and again. The wildest demonstrations of applause followed from the assembled thousands.

Without waiting for General Negley to complete his arrangements for a military display, at Lincoln's urgent request the procession began to move away from the Monongahela House. It proceeded along Smithfield Street to Fourth Street, now Fourth Avenue, and up that thoroughfare to Grant Street and then hurried by the most direct route to the Allegheny station. But all the way to the station there were cheering multitudes, and Lincoln stood up in the carriage most of the time, bowing in reply to the enthusiastic plaudits of the crowd. At the Allegheny station the jam was far greater than when he arrived. The rain had ceased to fall, and old and young, male and female, crowded around the depot by thousands. The solid mass of humanity was almost impenetrable. General Negley by appealing to the people succeeded in getting Lincoln from the carriage, and the party reached the platform one by one in Indian file. In a few minutes the special train reached the station, and they embarked amid the shouts and cheers of the enthusiastic multitude.

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2. Communicated to the writer by George W. Pusey, of Pittsburgh, who in 1861 was a boy attending Beaver College, at Beaver, and had come over to Rochester to see the President-elect as he passed through on his way to Pittsburgh.
3. Communicated to the writer by John A. Emery, Jr., of Pittsburgh, the son of Mary Morrison, who afterward became the wife of John A. Emery.
4. NOTE.—When former President Theodore Roosevelt visited Pittsburgh on September 10, 1910, and made an address, he was supposed to do so from the same balcony on which Lincoln had spoken in 1861, but through some one's error he delivered his speech from the Water Street balcony.



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## CHAPTER IV.

### DEATH OF LINCOLN.

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The war was over. Utterly exhausted, Lee had surrendered. There was rejoicing all over the victorious North. Lent had passed and the people were anticipating the gladness of an Easter freed from the cares of war, when suddenly the telegraph flashed the startling news that Lincoln had been murdered. The people were stunned. Smiles and jubilation were changed to tears and lamentation, and a universal cry for vengeance went up.

The night of Good Friday, April 14, 1865, and the days following were days of distress in Pittsburgh. The local newspapers of the day paint a vivid panorama of the scenes in the city immediately succeeding the tragedy (1). The man for whom, four years before, they had made the greatest demonstration that Pittsburgh had ever seen, and who had grown immeasurably in their opinion since that time was dead! Political partisanship was forgotten; a foul crime, the murder of the chief magistrate of the country, the governor of all the people, only was remembered. The Democratic *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, in its issue of Saturday, April 15, 1865, said: "About two o'clock this morning we were startled by the awful announcement of the assassination of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward. We are so petrified at this terrible intelligence, that at this early hour in the morning we are unable to speak of its damnable enormity as it deserves."

On Saturday all the newspapers printed startling headlines announcing the event. At twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock in the morning, the President died, and this fact was soon known in Pittsburgh and in the entire country. At half past nine his death was announced in the District Court of Allegheny County, and the court adjourned. In the Common Pleas Court, and in the United States District Court, the announcement was made shortly afterward, and they also adjourned. At ten o'clock a meeting of the Allegheny County bar was held and a committee appointed to prepare suitable resolutions on the death of the President, and to arrange for a fitting demonstration by the bar.

The news of Lincoln's death traveled fast to all parts of the two cities. Men in the stores, the offices, the workshops, were soon informed of the calamity which had befallen the country. Women heard of it in their homes, and the more well-to-do hurried away wide-eyed and tearful for more news. The humbler women were busy with the cares of their children, their baking, and cleaning and brightening for the Easter joys of the next day. What anguish was in those women's eyes as they talked with their neighbors, their sleeves rolled up, the dough of the bread pans still on their hands, or their hands wet from the scrubbing of floors, from washing clothes, discussing Booth's deed; and they wept tears of bitterness, and their children wept with them.

At eleven o'clock, at a public meeting called by the mayor, James Lowrey, Jr., in Wilkins Hall on Fourth Street, it was decided that all business should be suspended until the following Tuesday, and that the people be asked to drape their houses in mourning. It was also suggested that the citizens meet in their respective houses of worship on Sunday and join in prayers for the safety of the country. The meeting then adjourned to meet again on the following Monday. It being the Sabbath of the Jews, their Synagogue on Hemlock, now Eighth Street, was early hung with crape, and Professor Josiah Cohen delivered an eloquent address on the character and achievements of Abraham Lincoln. Since that time Josiah Cohen has been for forty years, a distinguished member of the Allegheny County bar, and a popular judge of the Common Pleas Court for a dozen years more, and now is perhaps the only man living who took a prominent part in the proceedings of those dark days.

By common consent, as soon as the enormity of the calamity was realized, business was suspended. Even the banks closed their doors and the brokers ceased trading. The Theatre, and Trimbles Varieties, posted notices that they would not give performances in the evening. The dry goods stores were ransacked for mourning goods, and everywhere men were draping houses and stores, the newspaper offices being the first to don mourning garb. The *Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle* appeared with its columns heavily bordered in black; all over the two cities, as well as on the steamboats on the Allegheny and Monon-

gahela rivers, flags were placed at half mast. At the Fort Pitt Foundry, at the corner of Pike and O'Hara, now Twelfth Street, where many of the cannon used in the war had been manufactured, minute guns were fired; and the bells on the fire engine houses tolled in token of sorrow. In the evening a crowd went through the principal streets and forced such business houses as had not already done so, to close their establishments. However, except for a few drinking shops, this had already been done, and these were forced to at once cease doing business. A wizard show at Masonic Hall had defied public sentiment, and was giving a performance, but the crowd made a raid, turning out the lights, and driving the audience out into the street. On the Post Office steps an old man named, J. W. Bear, known in political circles as the "Old Buckeye Blacksmith," rehearsed the deeds of the dead President to a dense crowd who listened with tear-dimmed eyes. The streets were crowded with sad faces. Men talked of the terrible crime with bated breath and recalled, often with tears, the virtues and greatness of mind of the dead President. They lingered on Fifth Street until late in the day anxious for additional news. Nor did the rain, which had been indicated all day, and which toward evening began to fall, drive the people from the streets.

On Sunday all the churches displayed emblems of mourning. Their services were largely attended. It was Easter and the rejoicing that would otherwise have been in evidence after the self-denial of lent, had given way to deep sorrow. The ministers referred to the fact that on the previous Sunday there had been a religious jubilee because the four years of war were over, and contrasted it with the present gloom. All lauded the man who had been so suddenly called home, and talked of the retribution which awaited the criminals. In some churches the bitterness engendered by the war cropped out. The Rev. J. B. Clark, the pastor of the Second United Presbyterian Church of Allegheny, who had been the colonel of a volunteer regiment in the war, spoke of his disappointment at the terms of surrender granted to General Lee. He declared that "a good old lady" speaking of them had said to him: "If I had a flag I would have displayed it at half mast and draped it with mourning." At St. Paul's Cathedral the services were

peculiarly grand and solemn, and the attendance could not have been less than five thousand. The Rev. Father Hickey occupied the pulpit and delivered a sermon, extolling the virtues of Lincoln. The Smithfield Street German Evangelical Church was densely packed. The pastor, Rev. Carl Walther, who as a young student in Germany, had fought for liberty in the war against Napoleon, delivered a discourse that was listened to with intense interest.

On Monday the gloom deepened. All the newspapers, except the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette*, appeared with heavily leaded columns, and that paper apologized for its failure to do so, by stating that owing to the circular form of its press and forms, it was not in its power to place the paper in mourning. The Allegheny County bar held the meeting arranged for on Saturday and adopted resolutions, and listened to addresses by its leaders. The adjourned meeting of citizens was held at two o'clock at the corner of Fifth and Smithfield streets in front of the Post Office. It had originally been decided to hold the meeting in Wilkins Hall, but it early became evident from the immense throngs which filled the streets, that no hall in the city could hold those who would desire to attend. Mayor Lowrey therefore caused the erection of a stand in front of the Post Office, around which the citizens gathered by thousands. As soon as the stand was completed, Dr. George McCook talked to the assembled crowd until the meeting was organized, by the selection of Mayor Lowrey as chairman. Dr. Allison of the *Presbyterian Banner* offered a prayer, and former governor, William F. Johnston, Thomas Williams, Gen. J. K. Moorhead and T. J. Bigham delivered addresses, and the resolutions previously prepared were adopted. In the evening a special meeting of Pittsburgh Councils was held and resolutions of regret enacted.

In Pittsburgh and Allegheny crape and black muslin were festooned from windows and over doors, and portraits of the dead President wreathed in crape were displayed in windows and on store fronts; and significant mottoes were distinguishing features of the day. The interior, and the outer walls of the churches bore symbols of mourning, and the court rooms and the public offices, national, county and city, were draped in black. Street vendors were selling small medallion pictures of Lincoln bound with crape or



black ribbon, which were being largely worn. A popular badge of mourning was a black bordered white silk ribbon containing the motto, "We Mourn Our Loss," and adorned with Lincoln's likeness, under which was the verse:

"Rest! Statesman; Rest!  
Await the Almighty's will  
Then rise unchanged  
And be a statesman still."

Also veterans of the war appeared with their corps badges shrouded in crape. In many families any black material at hand had been pressed into service as a mourning device. Women's dresses and veils, and men's clothes were sacrificed and cut up and fashioned into streamers and fastened above doors or above or below windows. Many of the yard locomotives, and the locomotives on the trains centering in the city were clad in mourning.

On Tuesday Allegheny Councils held a joint meeting and adopted resolutions similar to those passed by Pittsburgh Councils. The leading streets were somber with mourning emblems. The scene along Water Street from the Monongahla House, where Lincoln had been an honored guest four years before, which was heavily draped in black, and displayed the stars and stripes, also enshrouded in crape, beggared description. The fronts of the houses all the way to the Point were covered with emblems of mourning, as were the steamers on the wharf. Wood Street for its entire length was draped, as was Market Street. The dry-goods store of J. W. Barker & Co., on Market Street was literally covered with black, and immediately over the front entrance was the motto, "We Mourn Our Loss." The appearance of Fifth Street was still more impressive. Black streamers were suspended from every store front, from every window. Flags tied with crape fluttered from every building, and across the street. On the store of Hugus and Hacke, in the center of the three large windows was suspended a likeness of the President, heavily draped with black material, and surmounted by an eagle having a small flag in its beak, the whole being surmounted by the American colors. Oliver McClintock and Company displayed a sign bearing the words: "First pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

The Post Office, Masonic Hall, the offices of the *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette*, the *Pittsburgh Commercial*, the *Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle*, the *Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch* and the *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, and The Theatre were all hung in black. The front of St. Paul's Cathedral was also draped, as was the Court House. Everywhere the portrait of Lincoln bordered in black was in evidence. On the front of the dwelling and store of George W. Weyman on Smithfield Street were the lines:

"Thick clouds around us seem to press,  
The heart throbs quickly—then is still;  
Father 'tis hard to say "Thy will  
Be done!" in such an hour as this.  
A martyr to the cause of man,  
His blood is freedom's eucharist,  
And in the world's great hero-list  
His name shall lead the van."

The Smithfield Street German Evangelical Church had a profuse display of mourning. All the fire companies clothed their engine houses in black. Over the Vigilant engine house on Third Street, now Third Avenue, was the motto:

"Vigilant Mourns the Loss."

Woe to the man who dared utter a word approving of the crime, or say aught derogatory of Lincoln! In Birmingham, now part of the south side of the city, a milkman had just handed a woman customer a pitcher of milk, when she spoke regretfully of President Lincoln's assassination. He replied that "The son of a b— should have been killed four years ago." No sooner was the remark out of his mouth, than he received the pitcher and its contents in his face; and he was nearly killed by the infuriated crowd which collected, and was finally led with a rope around his neck to the Military Post on Smithfield Street. In a grocery store on Pennsylvania, now Fifth Avenue, near Pride Street, a man expressed pleasure at Lincoln's assassination, when a woman threw the bucket of yeast which she had purchased into his face, and he was obliged to fly for his life from the other customers in the store. A man was arrested and fined for tearing crape from houses on Penn Street and making slurring remarks about Lincoln. In a tannery in Duquesne Borough, now part of the north side of Pittsburgh, a workman

uttered sympathetic words for the Rebels, when the other workmen threw him into one of the vats, and his life was saved only by the interference of the proprietor. On Fifth Street a drunken fellow expressed joy of Lincoln's death, and he would have been hanged to the nearest lamp-post had he not been rescued by the police. The owner of a lager beer saloon on Penn Street was placed in the lockup for having expressed delight at the assassination.

Lincoln's funeral service was held in Washington on Wednesday, April 19th. At the same hour services were being held in various churches in Pittsburgh and Allegheny in accordance with the wishes of the Acting Secretary of State. The burial was to be at Springfield, Illinois, and it was arranged that the body should be taken to its last resting place over the same route that Lincoln had traveled in February, 1861. This was afterward changed, and the funeral train went by way of Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York and western cities. The funeral train left Washington early on Friday, April 21st, and after stopping at Baltimore, reached Harrisburg at eight o'clock in the evening. Here the train was met by the committee of Pittsburgh citizens appointed for that purpose. At twelve o'clock noon on Saturday, the funeral train bearing Lincoln's body left Harrisburg for Philadelphia; and on that day, as the train passed through the state, in pursuance of the proclamation of Governor Curtin, all business in Pittsburgh and Allegheny was suspended.

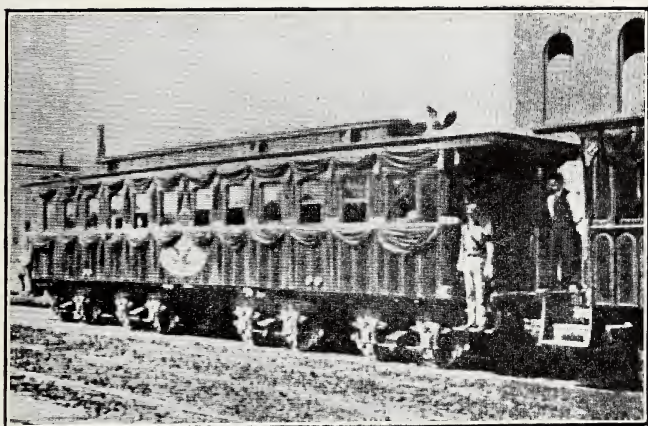
It was an imposing funeral train and consisted of nine cars, eight of which were furnished by the leading railroads over which the remains were to be transported. The ninth car, containing the body of the dead President, was known as the "President's car," and had been built by the national government for the convenience of President Lincoln in traveling over the United States Military Railroads. While the funeral train did not pass through Pittsburgh, the funeral car was there for some time, and for that reason it seems fitting to say something regarding it. It contained a parlor, sitting room and sleeping apartment. It was heavily draped within and without, the black color being relieved with white and black rosettes, and silver fringes and tassels.

On the windows were black curtains, and the entire furniture was shrouded in that color. A plain stand covered with black cloth, was placed in the car, at one end, and on this the remains of the President rested. On a similar stand, at the other end of the car, was the coffin holding the remains of Willie Lincoln, the President's son, who had died in Washington, and which were to be buried at Springfield along with those of his father.

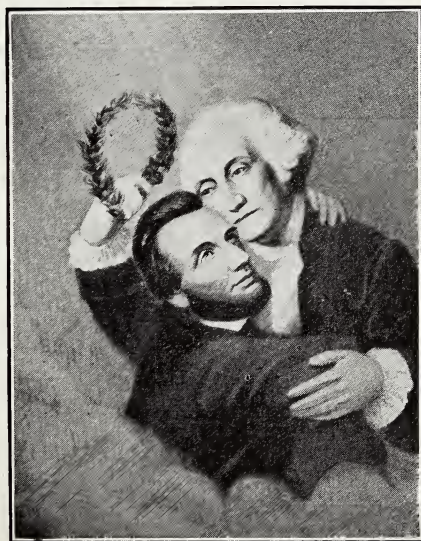
On Saturday, May 6, 1865, the party which had accompanied the funeral party to Springfield, arrived in Pittsburgh over the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, on their return to Washington, and stopped over for a few hours. The funeral car came through with the train bringing the party and was immediately taken to the Outer Depot in Allegheny (2).

A life-long resident of Pittsburgh, who as a boy of seven, saw the car as it lay in the yard of the Outer Depot, describing it a number of years ago related that it was of a slate-gray color, and had a large eagle surmounting a red, white and blue shield painted on either side; that immediately after Lincoln's death, when it was decided to use it as the funeral car, it had been repainted. He declared that he did not remember how long the car remained in the yard, but that it seemed to him to have been there for weeks. As he went on with his story, the eyes of the relator became brighter, and he seemed to live over again the days of his early childhood. "At that time my father was employed by the railroad company, and he took me to see the car a number of times and told me its history, and talked to me about the dead statesman. With awe I stared at the spot which was pointed out as the place where the cofined body of the martyred President had lain on its catafalque. I imagined I could see the still form. I recall the reverence with which the railroad employees entered the car, hat in hand, and the low tones in which they conversed, as they stood about discussing the man on whose account they were there. Child that I was, I visited the car again and again, drawn thither by an irresistible desire to stand inside of the enclosure hallowed by Lincoln's presence, in life and in death, and who I thought had been the greatest man who ever lived."





LINCOLN'S FUNERAL CAR



WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN  
APOTHEOSIZED

Copy of a print sold on the streets of  
Pittsburgh after Lincoln's assassination



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REFERENCES.

1. *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette*, April 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22, 1865.  
*Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1865.  
*Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle*, April 15, 17 and 18, 1865.  
*Pittsburgh Commercial*, April 15, 17 and 18, 1865.
2. *Daily Pittsburgh Gazette*, May 8, 1865.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN****A Tribute**

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The Civil War will always be of romantic interest. When it began John Brown had met his glorious death, albeit on the scaffold, but little more than a year before; and in the entire South the black man was being bought and sold as a chattel. The government had not yet entirely passed the formative stage. The country still had a western frontier, which was only a day's journey from Chicago. Heroism was above commercialism. Opinion was rapidly crystalizing against the further extension, and in favor of the entire abolition of human slavery. A new political party had been organized, whose object was to prevent the further extension of slavery; and with this party were allied all the men who were urging its complete abolition. In its search for a leader, to direct the destinies of the nation, this party, called to the presidency a young giant who had declared that the Union could not endure half slave and half free—that a house divided against itself could not stand—that slavery must ultimately be extinguished. Because he bore the name, that God himself had bestowed on the patriarch of the Jewish people, his utterances had a prophetic prescience. Heroic in mould he will always appear, as he emerges, laurel-crowned, out of the smoke, and dust and roar of the battles of the war, which his election precipitated.

We all love Lincoln because he was intensely human. He was truly great, but like all really great men, he had in his composition all the little elements which go to make up the ordinary man, such as we delight in thinking we are. Born in a rude Kentucky cabin, he was the son of an illiterate father, who was at once carpenter, cabinet-maker and farmer, and of a mother of innate refinement, who died when her boy was still very young. The father married again, and gave his son a stepmother of wisdom and strength, who made his life attractive, and inspired him to become the good and useful man whose memory we so delight to honor. There were few schools in those days in Indiana, to which state the boy was early taken, and the



education which he received from that source was extremely fragmentary. But he was eager to learn, and grasped at every opportunity of acquiring knowledge, in the intervals that could be spared from the work on his father's small farm. He read over and over again the few books that came in his way, but with the Bible, which was always at hand, he became more familiar than with any other form of literature; and in after life he made constant use of appropriate quotations from its pages. His stepmother however, has made the shrewd observation, that at this time, like many other boys, her stepson "sought more congenial books." He was thoughtful and observant, and matured early, and earned a few dollars here, and a few dollars there, by working for the neighbors, which money was always demanded, and scrupulously given to his father. His first large undertaking was when at nineteen years of age he helped navigate to New Orleans, a flat boat loaded with provisions. His receptive character was distinctly broadened by his experience in that large city. When the family moved again, this time into Illinois, Lincoln was twenty-one years old, and he helped his father to build his log house, and to clear the ten acre farm on which they had settled; and he split the rails to fence the land, a few of which were finally to be dramatically carried into the state convention at Bloomington in 1860, and which resulted in his nomination by the national convention at Chicago to the highest office in the gift of the people of the United States.

After he had seen the family well settled, Lincoln struck out for himself. He sought a wider field. The family environment was too narrow for his dominating spirit, although he was deeply attached to his relatives, and continued to assist them with money as long as he lived. All the time he was leading the wholesome out-door life of the back-woods. He was an adept in all the ordinary sports. He could throw farther, run faster, jump higher, shoot straighter than any of his companions. At the cock fights, which were still considered a civilized amusement, and the horse races, he became the chosen umpire. On occasions he has also been known to indulge in fist-fights, and the story of his fight with the bully of Gentryville, is still a legend, out in Indiana where it occurred. As a wrestler he was supreme, and the way in which he whipped Jack Armstrong, the lead-

er of the Clary Grove toughs in Illinois, raised him high in the estimation of the people among whom his lot was cast.

All his life he was intensely ambitious. He became a clerk in a store. When Black Hawk, the Indian chief, undertook to wage war on the settlers in the Rock River Valley in Illinois, Lincoln became, at twenty-three, a volunteer, and being already a leader of men, his comrades, in the company of mounted volunteers of which he was a member, elected him captain. He saw no fighting, except such fighting as the wild young fellows whom he commanded indulged in, among themselves. The only incident in this experience that stands out in relief, is the one which Lincoln often laughingly described. On one occasion he desired to march his company through an open gateway, but could not remember the proper word of command for changing the formation of the company to what he humorously called "endways," so he shouted: "This company is dismissed for two minutes, when it will fall in again on the other side of the gate!" On the disbanding of the company, he reenlisted in another company and served as a private for the remainder of the short-lived war.

He was early anxious for the political preferment, and on his return from the war, ran for the state Legislature, but was defeated. He conducted a grocery-store, in partnership with another man in New Salem, which had been paid for with notes. He read and studied; and the business did not prosper, and a tavern license was taken out. He was appointed postmaster of the village; and began reading law. He had no heart for selling groceries or liquors; he was a careless business man; and even the selling of liquors failed to make the enterprise profitable. He became deputy surveyor of the county in which he lived, and although he knew nothing whatever of surveying, he needed the money, which the proffered positions would pay him, and in six weeks, he had mastered the science of surveying sufficiently, to be able to do the work required of him. Now the grocery store was sold. Notes were taken in payment which the makers neglected to pay at maturity. Lincoln's debts, contracted in the purchase of the store, were large and being unable to meet them, he became insolvent. For almost five years he continued to be a surveyor, all the while taking part in politics, and enlarging his acquaintanceship, and was now twice

elected to the Legislature. A love romance came into his life, and for him ended in darkness and gloom; and when Ann Rutledge, his loved one, died, in his despair, he declared that his "heart was buried" in the grave with her. But he was young and vigorous in body and mind, and his ambition swept him past this dark place in his path, and he went on in his fight for recognition, and in March 1837, in his twenty-eighth year, he was admitted to the bar at Springfield, the new capital of the state, where he commenced to practice the legal profession.

He reached the top easily in his chosen calling; and he grew rapidly in the estimation of all who knew him, either personally or by reputation. He had no personal vices; his moral character was always above suspicion, he did not smoke. In his early manhood he had drunk whisky, and had sold it. Now he drank no intoxicating liquors of any kind. In his thirty third year this man of the people married a girl of ancient lineage and social charms.

His was truly a remarkable career. As a politician, he discussed the question of slavery in a series of debates in Illinois with Stephen A. Douglass, the ablest and most adroit logician of his day, and he carried off the honors. To Lincoln, the subject of the debates, was not merely a partisan political question, but as he expressed it, "the old eternal question of right and wrong." With only one term in the National House of Representatives to his credit, his political fame in the remote state of Illinois, had so far affected men all over the North, that he was nominated and elected President of the United States, at the time when the strongest man in public life was needed. He came to Washington a poor man. He never cared for money, in the accumulation of which a man of his high order of ability could have been eminently successful. Years before he had paid out of his earnings as a surveyor, and at the bar, all the obligations with interest, that had been incurred by him in his store-keeping experiment. At times his income was large for those days, but after he had married it was nearly all used for household expenses, for while he lived modestly, he lived well, and in furthering his political ambition. It was customary at that time, to spend money much more lavishly for political purposes, taking into consideration the comparative wealth of the people, than now, when its use in politics

is limited by law. His entire worldly possessions when he moved into the White House, were the little frame house in which he lived in Springfield, and eighty acres of wild land in Iowa, which he had entered with the bounty land-warrant that he had received for his services in the Black Hawk War. He was even obliged to borrow the necessary money for the family expenses of the first few months in Washington.

His experience in public life, in the broader sense, had been limited, yet from the first he brilliantly met every demand. Inexperience soon gave way to understanding. That he was wise beyond his years was early recognized. He was only seventeen years old when he passed his last days in a school-room, and since that time he had been engaged in many callings, and had learned many lessons. From early youth he seemed conscious of a high mission; he believed that he was destined to rise to a great height, and he struggled on through years of toil and exceptional hardship. When he was only thirty-six years of age, he was called "Old Abe" by those to whom he was endeared. His well known integrity, caused him later to be known to everybody as "Honest old Abe." His election was the death blow of slavery; and the South commenced the War of Secession, a movement which had been engendered for some years prior to that time. Lincoln was for the integrity of the Union; on this his will was iron. "My opinion", he wrote to Thurlow Weed, on December 17, 1860, "is, that no state can in any way lawfully get out of the Union." The South had been organized into a Confederacy before he was inaugurated, and when he took the reins of government into his hands, he found that nearly half the team, which he had been elected to drive, had run off. As he stood on the platform in front of the Capitol, his vigorous manhood, his six feet and four inches of height, his angular and slightly stooped figure, the dark homely face, the bright shining eyes, the black hair and beard, with scarcely a silver thread running through them, made him seem a young colossus, when compared with the old white-haired and decrepit Buchanan who was beside him. The two men were typical of their administrations; Lincoln was bold and forceful yet cautious and hopeful, Buchanan was weak, hesitating and fearful. In his inaugural address, while he was conciliatory, Lincoln repeated what he had written to Thurlow Weed, and to the principle then enunciated he



clung throughout the whole of the Civil War.

He was a many-sided man. He realized that as President, certain social obligations were imposed upon him; and at the first inaugural ball, he moved gayly, with Mrs. Lincoln, through the opening quadrille. At his levees he was a charming host, and those who came expecting to see an awkward, ill clad country lawyer, were disappointed at beholding a man of easy manners, and conventional dress. He was stronger than any man in his cabinet, not excepting Edward M. Stanton, the secretary of war, who entered it in January 1862. He always had his ear to the ground, and knew public sentiment long before the public itself realized that it had an opinion; and he took advantage of his knowledge. He had hoped to avert civil war but gave up all hope after the Secessionists bombarded and captured Fort Sumpter, when he instantly called on the country for troops; and the whole North blazed with war sentiment, and became an armed camp; and when the volunteers were thought to be efficient, they were sent South and the fighting began. His soul was sorely tried; yet he was the calmest man in Washington during that day of drizzling rain, when General McDowell's army broken and dispirited, straggled back into the city, from its rout at Bull Run. But oh!, how he wept when a few months later his old Illinois friend, Colonel Baker, was killed in the disaster at Ball's Bluff. The cares of the office were appalling. He once said to General Schenck when he was particularly depressed, on account of a new disaster to the army: "You have no idea of the terrible weight of care and sense of responsibility of this office of mine. If to be at the head of hell, is as hard as what I have to undergo here, I could find it in my heart to pity Satan himself."

He was a political partisan, yet he early placed George B. McClellan, a Democrat, at the head of the army because he believed him to be the fittest man, to undertake the organization of the army. He was most patient with him, and hoped and prayed that he would win victories for the Union. Even after McClellan had signally failed to demonstrate his capacity as a leader in an aggressive campaign, and had allowed his political ambition to become President, to turn his face from his duty, Lincoln still bore with him. His love for the Union was so strong that when he was being

urged to be a candidate for a second term, he directed overtures to be made to McClellan, and let it be known, that he would step aside and allow McClellan to be elected President on a Union-Democratic ticket, if he would only come forward and put himself at the head of such a party, instead of injuring the chances of carrying the war to a successful conclusion, by flirting with the Democratic party, which was declaring the war to be a failure.

He had a keen intellect, and was never at a loss for a telling reply. When New York City was apprehensive of a bombardment by Confederate cruisers, a committee of its citizens visited him, and in an earnest appeal, the chairman declared that the committee represented the wealth of the city—"one hundred millions in their own right"—were the words of the zealous chairman. The far-away look which had become almost habitual with Lincoln when talking to delegations of visitors came into his eyes, and he replied deliberately, that he could not furnish a gun-boat, and added impressively, "If I were worth half as much as you seem to be, I would build a gun-boat and give it to the government."

He had wit of a high order. The bane of his life was the office-seekers. On one occasion he was prostrated in the White House by an attack of small pox. Calling to his attendant, he said, with a lugubrious mien; "Tell all the office-seekers to come at once, for now I have something I can give to all of them." At this time Mr. Lincoln believed that "to the victor belong the spoils of office," although after his second inauguration his views changed, and he declared himself in favor of tenure during good behavior; and this was the birth of the civil service reform movement.

As a raconteur he had no superior in Washington. This power was never intentionally used to wound, but either as a relaxation, after he had been tortured by some overwhelming mental strain, or to point a moral. He was much annoyed by the importunities of persons who had articles which they desired to sell to the government. Three men somehow gained access to his presence, who had some warlike invention to dispose of, and the spokesman in an insolent manner reminded the President, that he had already spoken to him about the matter, and demanded a definite reply. A cold twinkle came into Lincoln's eyes as he

told the story of a boy who was obliged every day to commit to memory, and recite, a chapter from the Bible. The boy did very well, until he came to the chapter detailing the story of the trials of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace. Try as he would, the boy could not remember these names. The next day he still failed to remember the names, and also the next. The fourth day the boy was again asked to tell the names of the men in the fiery furnace. "Oh!" he exclaimed hopelessly, "here comes those three infernal bores! I wish the devil had them!"

The war graved heavy rings under Lincoln's eyes, and the lines in his face became deeper, and his features wan. He passed many sleepless nights. But hope never left him. His confidence in ultimate victory was unchangeable. In the darkest hours he always found respite from his cares in visiting the theatres. From boyhood, he had been a lover of Shakespeare, and had read most of that author's plays, and could recite whole scenes from memory, which he often did for the entertainment of his friends. His whole being became absorbed as he sat watching Edwin Booth's peerless performance of the part of Hamlet. In this play he saw expounded a philosophy much like the views which he himself entertained. While he owed much of his success in life to his own untiring efforts, yet like other men of destiny, he had a strong belief in the truth of Hamlet's remark to Horatio, that "there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will", a sentiment which he was always fond of quoting. His theatre-going however, was not limited to the Shakespearean drama, but extended to all classes of plays. In Edwin Forrest's portrayal of the conglomerate character of Richelieu, the famous French statesman—soldier—priest, of the Seventeenth century, as painted in Bulwer's play, Lincoln beheld reflected many of his own opinions on public and private questions; and he was charmed with the reflection. He greatly delighted in attending the negro minstrel entertainments, as here their was both humor and pathos, and both the humor and pathos related to the negro slaves, whose condition was the cause of the war that was then being fought. He laughed at the jokes, some of which were at his expense, and he enjoyed the simple melodies. He would chuckle with pleasure when the end-

man would start to sing his favorite ditty:

“When I was young I used to wait  
At massa’s table, ’n’ hand de, ’plate,  
An’ pass de bottle when he was dry,  
An’ brush away de blue-tailed fly.”

Although he was ignorant of the art of music, the rhythm and the sentiment of the ordinary song affected him deeply; it produced sensations of dreaminess, joy, sadness, exaltation. He listened rapturously to the singing of others. The Hutchinson Family had been singing patriotic songs to the soldiers in the camps about Washington, and had created great enthusiasm, when McClellan ordered them out of the army, for singing Whittier’s famous anti-slavery poem set to the music of Luther’s stirring hymn, “*Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott*”:

“What gives the wheat fields blades of grass?  
What points the rebel cannon?  
What sets the roaring rabble’s heel  
On the old star spangled pennon?  
What breaks the oath  
Of the men o’ the South?  
What whets the knife  
For the Union’s life?—  
Hark to the answer: *Slavery!*”

This did not deter Lincoln from inviting them to his levees, where he listened to them with eyes closed, and sympathy expressed on every lineament of his face; and soon afterward he made an order superseding that of McClellan and directed the commanders to permit the Hutchinsons to sing the interdicted song to the soldiers.

He had the soul of a poet, and his public addresses, with all their powerful logic, teem with poetic imagery. With only a limited knowledge of the poets, he eagerly read poetry, particularly if it dealt with human aspirations and human sufferings. Lord Byron delighted him, a favorite selection, for he believed in dreams, which he would recite to his



friends, being the somber lines:

“Our life is two-fold: Sleep hath its own world,  
A boundary between the things misnamed  
Death and existence: Sleep hath its own world,  
And a wide realm of wild reality,  
And dreams in their development have breath,  
And tears, and tortures, and the touch of joy;  
They leave a weight upon our waking thoughts,  
They take a weight from off our waking toils,  
They do divide our being.”

Of the fugitive newspaper poetry, he had made a collection, which he kept in his desk, and many of the selections he had committed to memory. In the newspapers he had come across Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes' "The Last Leaf", and he never tired of quoting:

“The mossy marbles rest  
On the lips that he has pressed  
In their bloom;  
And the names he loved to hear  
Have been carved for many a year  
On the tomb”.

He was as tender hearted as a woman, and many a letter of his is now preserved as a treasured heirloom, in the family of some mother, or wife, or child, who had been suddenly bereft of a son, or husband, or father, fallen in one of the many battles, that were constantly being fought. It was a most delicate mark of sympathy from one high in authority to an humble woman, that dictated the letter he addressed to the mother in Boston, whose five sons had all been killed in battle on the Union side. "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine", he wrote "which should attempt to beguile you from a loss so overwhelming". People went to him for all sorts of favors, and he was touched with compassion and granted their requests. A handsome girlish wife whose husband, a young lieutenant, because he had stayed with her, too long, on their honeymoon, had been dismissed from the service, asked and obtained his reinstatement. Innumerable times, he was asked to prevent the execution of soldiers who had deserted and been recaptured, or had slept at their posts, in time of danger, or had committed some other of the crimes against the military law; and in all but the gravest cases he mercifully

interfered. Doing good deeds seemed to transform Lincoln entirely, in the eyes of those for whom he was doing favors. Thaddeus Stevens presented an old lady to the President to ask him to pardon her son, who had been condemned to be shot for sleeping at his post. After the pardon had been signed, the lady astonished every one in the room, as she was leaving, by suddenly bursting out: "I knew it was a lie! They told me Mr. Lincoln was an ugly man, when he is really the handsomest man I ever saw in my life."

He was a farsighted politician and had been a student of human character all his life. In the decade immediately preceding his first inauguration, immigration into the United States had been the heaviest in all its history, being larger than the total immigration for the preceding thirty years. More than half of the immigrants were German and Irish, and they thronged every center of population in the North; and they were enthusiastic partisans of the war. Lincoln encouraged their patriotism, and thousands upon thousands of them flocked into the Union army; and he gave to representatives of their race, who had had military experience, or had merit, important commands. To have fought in the Civil War, "mit Sigel," or under Meagher, will ever remain a badge of honor. Then he rewarded the Frenchmen in the army, through General de Trobriand, the Poles through Colonel Kryzanowski, the Italians through General di Cesnola. He realized that at this time the army was ruling the destinies of the nation, and that the private soldiers were closer to the hearts of the people, than their officers. Therefore he cultivated the private soldiers; he desired their good opinion. No high general was as well known as Lincoln, in the camps about Washington, and in the field, at Harrison's Landing on the James River in the early part of the war, and later at Falmouth, on the battle field of Antietam, and at City Point. He walked or rode through the camp streets, and to the cheers of the soldiers he replied with nods and smiles. They cheered for "Old Abe", and considered him their friend, and he laughed and joked with them. With his bodyguard at the Soldiers' Home in Washington, he was always on familiar terms, the captain was "Joe", and the men also were known to him by their Christian names. But his friendly feeling toward the soldiers,

did not deter him from reproving them, when he thought they merited reproof. While riding with several others to the review of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac at Falmouth one day, the driver of the ambulance in which they were travelling, occasionally let fly at his team of troublesome mules, a volley of suppressed oaths. Lincoln bore with the man's profanity for a time, then leaning forward touched him on the shoulder, and asked:

"Excuse me, my friend, are you an Episcopalian?"

The man greatly startled, looked around and replied: "No, Mr. President; I am a Methodist." "Well", said Lincoln, "I thought you must be an Episcopalian, because you swear just like Secretary Seward, who is a warden in an Episcopal Church".

He visited the hospitals where the wounded men were convalescing, with scrupulous regularity; and the invalids were elated, and repeated with pride what the President had said to them. The courage of his tumultuous youth had not deserted him, and once while on a visit to the out-posts of the army he rode with General Benjamin F. Butler, along the line of the intrenchments at Fortress Monroe, in full view of the enemy, while his soldiers were cheering themselves hoarse, and the enemy's pickets, who were not more than three hundred yards distant must have heard the tumult, and suspected the cause, and could easily have fired on and killed him. Being remonstrated with, his only reply was to laugh and say: "Oh no! the commander-in-chief must not show any cowardice in the presence of his soldiers, whatever he may feel".

In crucial moments he was superb. When the Army of the Potomac was about to enter Pennsylvania, while pursuing the army of Lee, and a great battle was imminent, General Hooker suddenly resigned the command. Even Stanton, the iron hearted secretary of war was in a panic. The news came in the evening. As Lincoln read the dispatch announcing Hooker's resignation, his jaws tightened and he said instantly to Stanton, "Accept his resignation." And immediately the President and his great war secretary decided to place General Meade in command of the Army of the Potomac, and at daybreak the next morning, Meade was in control, and afterward fought the battle of Gettysburg successfully. When the great crisis of the

whole war arrived, Lincoln met it like a demigod. He had long realized that the war must inevitably lead to the emancipation of the slaves, but was long in doubt as to the most opportune time for bringing it about, and the best method by which it could be accomplished. The abolitionists were clamoring for immediate emancipation. The Northern clergy thundered against him for his delay. A number of Chicago ministers called on him to demand a proclamation abolishing slavery. One of them on leaving added as a parting admonition: "It is a message from the Divine Master to you". Lincoln replied quietly: "That may be true, but if it is, it is odd that the only channel He could send it by, was that roundabout route, by way of that awfully wicked city of Chicago."

Horace Greeley in the *New York Tribune* railed at Lincoln in his "Prayer of Twenty Millions", to which complaint the President replied in a published letter of convincing dignity. "What I do about slavery," he wrote, "I do because I believe it helps save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do believe it would help to save the Union." He was of the opinion that the time had not arrived for striking the shackles from the slaves; that public opinion was not ripe for so drastic a measure. He was engaged in war, and he intended to take advantage of every phase of the struggle. When McClellan won the battle of Antietam, and cleared Maryland and Pennsylvania of the Confederates, Lincoln was satisfied that the proper time had come, and without consulting anyone he issued his first proclamation on the subject of the abolition of slavery. He gave notice of his intention to free the slaves in the states and territories in revolt, if they did not come back into the Union by the first of the next January. When the first of January 1863 arrived, the proclamation, written with his own hand, was ready, and after laying it before his cabinet, he signed the paper, and all the slaves in the rebellious states were declared to be free; and the whole civilized world rejoiced.

In military, no less than in political affairs, Lincoln was an over-mastering genius. Without previous military training, for his four months service in the Black Hawk War, can by no stretch of the imagination be termed such, his ability was such that he was not only nominally, but actually,



from the very beginning of the war, the commander-in-chief of all the military forces of the Union. A few days after his inauguration he was called upon to make his first decision, and he demonstrated his ability by wisely overruling General Scott, who had advised the evacuation of Fort Sumpter. His plans of the military campaigns were marvels of insight and sound judgment, as is now admitted on every hand by military experts. If the campaigns which he laid out were not always successful, it was generally because of lack of capacity, or on account of some blunder, on the part of the generals entrusted with their execution. He sent general after general, to cope with the lion of the Confederacy, General Lee, who failed in the task assigned them, but finally General Grant was found, and to him Lincoln gave absolute authority. As usual in such cases he wrote fully and frankly. "The particulars of your plans I neither know nor seek to know," he declared. "You are vigilant and self-reliant; and, pleased with this, I wish not to obtrude any constraints or restraints upon you". And his faith was not misplaced.

At last the haughty banner of the Confederacy was everywhere trailing; valor and skill could not withstand valor and skill indefinitely, when combined with infinitely greater resources. The war was over although General Lee had not formally surrendered, and Lincoln went to the headquarters of the army at City Point, to confer with General Grant. Richmond was evacuated and set on fire. Two days later Lincoln was in the abandoned city, walking through the streets almost unprotected, no trace of exultation in his bearing, viewing the desolation wrought by the fire, and attempting to learn what could be done to soften the hard lot of the fallen foe. The streets were packed with negroes, old men with kinkey grey hair, old women in red bandannas, young negroes and young negresses, children in arms, and children running about; black negroes, brown negroes, yellow negroes. All were wild with excitement. The year of jubilee had been surpassed; the millennium had dawned. They were ecstatic; their Savior had appeared among them. They leaped in the air for joy; they hugged and kissed one-another; they followed Mr. Lincoln about. They sang religious hymns, and they shouted in the exuberance of their delight :

“Glory! Glory, Hallelujah!”  
God bless Massa Lincum!  
Glory! Glory, Hallelujah!”

But the tragedy of the war was not the only tragedy that was enacted in the bloody drama of the abolition of slavery. Appomattox was already a landmark in history. By day there was rejoicing on every thoroughfare; at night the public buildings were illuminated. The burdens and cares of four terrible years seemed about to be lifted from the President's weary shoulders; peace and happiness were coming timidly out of their retirement and smiling at him again. But alas! it was all only a mirage in the desert of his life. His work was done. He had led his people through tribulation and death, to within sight of the promised land; but into this he was not destined to enter. His name was not to be linked with the names of those who were to bring tranquility out of chaos, in the conquered states. His great and forgiving heart was already planning for a reunited country, and devising means for ameliorating the unhappy condition of the suffering South, when he was struck down by the hand of a sneaking assassin. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye”, his earthly career was ended. He died with a smile on his face. In the play which he was attending, *Asa Trenchard*, had made a witty retort to the taunt of *Mrs. Mountchessington*; and Lincoln had smiled, and the merciless bullet came; and the smile never left his wan features. And as his spirit took its flight, out in the street, a mild April rain murmured a soft requiem.

He has been dead for many a year, yet, as was sung of John Brown, by the Union soldiers in the war, “his soul goes marching on.” “He now belongs to the ages” was the pathetically eloquent remark of Secretary Stanton, at Lincoln's deathbed, as the great President breathed his last. We realize the truth of the observation, more and more, every day. In moments where the public weal is at stake, whether the question at issue, be old or new, Lincoln's utterances are the ones to be conjured with, more than the words of any other American. He is no longer classed with the political partisans; he is no longer counted as the representative of any section. Democrat, Socialist, Republican, Northerner or Southerner, aristocrat or commoner, all revere his memory and look to his writings and speeches for inspiration.



## GIFTS AND LOANS

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Constant additions are being made to these gifts and the Society especially desires that all persons interested in preserving relics and documents relating to the history of Western Pennsylvania take advantage of the opportunity for safeguarding them in the custodianship of this organization. Books and documents by Pennsylvania authors, and pictures, documents and articles that have belonged to eminent Pennsylvanians of the western counties of the State are solicited. Acknowledgment of donations and loans will be made in succeeding issues of the Historical Magazine.

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